



"The best Government is that which governs least."

VOL. III.]

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BY F. C. JONES.

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### Mississippi Democrat.

#### President POLK.

The President, with his family and his suite, left Washington on the 22d June for a northward tour. He reached Baltimore on the same day, where he met with a brilliant military and civic reception and display. We make the following extract from his remarks, in reply to the congratulatory address of the Mayor, in which it will be seen he expresses his determination to retire to private life at the close of his term:

In the presence of so much hospitality and courtesy, I feel myself in the society of my countrymen, and in the home of my friends. I have long desired to visit you, but it has not before been convenient for me to do so. After more than two years of almost constant confinement and of unremitting attention to my responsible public duties, I have availed myself of the present occasion, when I have reason to suppose I can, without detriment to the public service, be absent from the seat of government for a few days. The purpose of my brief visit is to pay my respects to my fellow-citizens of Baltimore and of the Northern section of this country. Had I postponed it beyond the present summer, it is not probable that any other convenient opportunity to make it would have occurred during the period of my term of official service, at the close of which I shall retire to private life. And I hope, sir, to retire, leaving the administration of my country in the hands of a worthy successor, and that country which has honored me so much, I trust to commit to that successor prosperous and happy. I thank you, sir.

We regret to learn, and we know that the regret will be shared by many others, of this conclusive determination. We are not believers in the wisdom or policy of the "one term principle." No President, since the foundation of the Republic, has administered its affairs, or guarded its honor and rights, and conserved the interests of the people, with more ability and fidelity, than President Polk. He has been emphatically true to his principles as the needle to the pole. Let Mr. Polk continue as steadfast and patriotic through the remainder of his term, as he has been thus far, and he will leave an example on his country's history, to be emulated by all Presidents to come. He is our first choice at the next Presidential term.

The Sentinel, in bringing forward Adj. Griffith as a candidate for State Treasurer, speaks of him in the very highest terms. As it seems in all respects proper that the Regiment should have a showing on the State ticket, we suppose his nomination will be agreed to *nem. con.* A democratic cotemporary suggests the name of Gen'l Clark. If the charge against him at the late Convention, of having refused to contribute of his abundance a pittance for the equipment of the volunteers, should be overlooked or forgiven, the whigs would revive it, put up a volunteer against him, and probably defeat him. They're up to such tricks! Besides, it is proper to establish the principle that it is a man's "duty to buy other men's clothes" when patriotism demands it.

**THE LETHBRON.**—This wonderful agent, producing for the time being entire insensibility to pain, is now successfully applied in all civilized countries in all cases of surgery, dentistry, and to ladies when—in a situation we dare not mention. It is rapidly gaining favor among the ablest surgeons and medical men.

G. W. B. Townes is the democratic candidate for Governor of Georgia.

Our cotton planting friends will be interested in the "Experiments with Cotton Seed." Mr. Vick is one of the most practical, successful and intelligent planters in the south-west.

It is said that instructions have been sent to Gen. Scott to make a treaty with any provisional or *de facto* government that may be found in Mexico. Our armies must then remain for a time in that country to guarantee the stability and permanence of such government.

The distress in Ireland and in parts of Scotland is still awful in the extreme. In some districts the growing crops are scant—many fields lying idle, because there was not seed to plant. It is a harrowing thought that thousands are suffering—many dying—for want of food, and that the destitution will continue.

It appears, by the following, that some of the speculators in soldiers' land scrip have been caught short up, by the salutary provisions of the law. The scrip will be issued to the soldiers as soon as the engravings are prepared.

#### Bounty Land and Scrip.

It seems that the speculators in soldiers' land warrants and treasury scrip have had a stumbling block in the way of their enterprises upon the necessities of "return volunteers" which may not be easily overleaped or got around. Out of some five or six hundred soldiers' certificates, convertible into stock, but twenty-three were found to be in legal form, and that when these twenty-three were presented to the Commissioner of Pensions, he required the holders to hunt up the soldiers from whom they emanated and procure a new transfer of their interest in the certificate of stock to make good the old sale. Most of these certificates were purchased in this city—many of them at a discount ruinous to the soldier. We have heretofore warned the return volunteers against speculators who beset them to get their stock from them; but many have been imprudent enough to sell out at a low rate. These sales are now void and of no effect, as the law under which the certificates are issued expressly prohibit any assignment of them till they are perfected by the issue of scrip by the Secretary of the Treasury. Congress, in view of the volunteers would return home, carefully guarded this bounty against a sacrifice to temporary want.

We subjoin the 9th section of the act of February 11, 1847, which contains the clauses guarding the rights of the soldiers, and we would be right glad if the construction put upon them by the authorities would go the length of issuing stock and land scrip to the soldier himself, without considering assignments, mortgages, or other lien that may have been given upon it. The law ought to be construed with extremest rigor against speculators, and this we believe has been the course of the departments up to the present time. No case should be considered strong enough to justify an issuance of stock to any but the soldier, unless he be dead, and then the construction should inure to the benefit of the heirs designated by the law.

#### Extract from sec. 9, of act of February 11, 1847.

—And all sales, mortgages, powers of attorney, or other instruments of writing going to affect the title or claim to any such bounty right, made or executed prior to the issue of such warrant or certificate, shall be null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever; nor shall such claim to bounty right be in anywise affected by, or charged with, or subject to the payment of any debt or claim incurred by the soldier prior to the issuing of such certificate or warrant.

#### The News from Mexico.

The news by the New Orleans, which will be found in detail in our columns today, is the most serious and consistent that we have received for many weeks. It is now no longer doubtful that Gen. Scott's march upon the capital will be disputed with considerable determination—for Mexicans. It is supposed that he will be resisted, in force, at three several points between Puebla and Mexico.

Santa Anna has succeeded in getting to the windward of his enemies. He has collected a force, formidable at least in numbers and, it is said, contrived to have himself made Dictator—upon the condition that he will refuse to make peace.—Those generals and dignitaries who were opposed to him, or were suspected of lukewarmness in his cause, have been imprisoned or sent to distant provinces in exile. His sway it would seem, is established upon as firm a basis as the power to get rid of his enemies without restraint can furnish.

All accounts agree in stating that the utmost activity prevails in the different armories and foundries in Mexico—that

cannon are being cast with rapidity—that shells, round shot and other missiles are turned out in abundance and that men are collecting in large bodies to fill up the rank and file of the army. The people, it is said, have aroused and Santa Anna employs the intervals between the composition of high-sounding proclamations in the more soldier-like and serious business of preparing substantial defenses of the seat of government. As a means of keeping in power, despite the foreboding complexion of such returns of votes of the States as have been received, Congress, no doubt through his procurement, have passed a law to the effect that their successors shall meet on the 1st of January next, and the votes for President shall be counted on the 15th of that month. Whatever may be said of Santa Anna's conduct in battle he has certainly a wonderful knack of raising armies and recovering from apparently hopeless reverses.

The 16th of June was the day appointed to advance from Puebla, but such were the preparations of the enemy to receive him that he was compelled to delay his march until reinforcements arrived.

The guerrillas, too, are becoming bolder in their attacks upon bodies of men moving along the road. Indications of obstinate resistance are rife from every quarter, nor can any presage of peace be drawn from any source, unless there be comfort in the adage, "the darkest hour of the night is just before day." [Pic. 30th.

#### FROM THE VICKSBURG SENTINEL.

#### EXPERIMENTS WITH COTTON SEED.

The following correspondence, from planters so well known, and of such experience and research, needs no introduction to the attention of our readers:

JUNE 26th 1847.

Dear Jenkins: Col. Vick expressing through you his willingness that his valuable letter to me might be published, were I willing—I now send it to you, assuring you that I do so for—believing it will be of great advantage, at least to the young and energetic planter. I do so for another reason; this letter was intended for my benefit but like all other of my agricultural correspondence, when possible to obtain the privilege, was also intended to be used for the benefit of my profession. I am therefore thus able to lay the whole before the public, and to the benefit of the writer thereof, believing his investigations are truly the best on the subject that I have seen, and this labor may be repaid, by his having full credit for the practical application of theory, and by a demand for his improved seed—provided they be worthy. I say "provided they be worthy," because I cannot desire any man success who knowingly endeavors to humbug a people. Samples of these seed I have planted with my own hands, and here state that of the sub-nigri variety, quite "small, rugged, dark, scorched, seemingly defective," and ugly looking seed; I planted nine seed early, two steps distant, and I have nine stands showing the soundness of these to all appearance, defective seed. Samples of the cotton I have, and so far as my judgement goes, I must pronounce some of the varieties superior to any thing I have cultivated. The yield, and other valuable qualities, I hope to test this season, and think to aid Col. Vick in establishing some valuable varieties. I can only act as second in this matter, and should I, by my good fortune succeed, I would not dare to take a single feather from the cap of my worthy friend. To him is alone due the whole credit, and I only deserve what I receive, his attention, which is to me ample for all my services.

I am fully sensible of the up hill task that is now before us; I mean to interest the public in the improvement of cotton seed; there have been so many bubbles that have burst in the hands of the unwary that the mass have become chary, and they should. The bursting of the Mastodon bubble has done more harm to the improvement of cotton seed, than all others put together, and only benefiting one person. The circular of Todd, Jackson & Co., of Liverpool, in England, showing that Mastodon found no purchasers, will of course stop the culture; yet its productive qualities, and prior testimony to the contrary notwithstanding, would have killed it in one year more.

There are other improvements to be made in cotton, and it is high time that the talent and energy of planters should be directed that way. I throw out some queries for the purpose of eliciting examination and thought; believing as I do, that there is much knowledge lying idle, and that attention may bring it forth.

Is it good policy to cultivate cotton as often as four, five, or six times in the season?

May not a soil become too light and mellow for a large yield of cotton?

Is there any thing required in the cultivation of cotton, the land being well plowed in the spring, more than merely keeping the surface clean, unless heavy rains in April or May impacted the land?

Is it not a fact, that land, when it has become well set with the grass, that we

know as "winter grass," is more productive than before it has become so, and produced probably from the greater firmness of the earth?

Does not cutting the roots of cotton, induce it to throw out an increased number, thus keeps up a too rapid growth and the casting off of forms, blooms, and small bolls?

Cannot the early vegetation, and early growth of cotton be promoted by proper steps? and may not some of the deprecators be checked by these solutions?—We know that saltpeter does protect for a time corn from the cut-worm, and the wire-worm.

Of course stiff clay lands require a different culture.

With these remarks, I beg to be truly yours,

M. W. PHILIPS.

#### LETTER OF COL. VICK.

Nitta-Yuma, Deer Creek, Miss.,

March 15th, 1847.

Dear Sir:—I give you as recollection serves me, and without regard to order, some experiments and remarks on cotton which, as opportunities offered, I have for many years been making, but which, trusting to a memory somewhat tenacious, I have never recorded.

Seventeen years since, I procured from the Petit Gulf hills some excellent cotton seed, known then, as now, as the little brown, or drab Petit Gulf Mexican. For the first seven years, ordinary care was taken of them; when, having met with none superior, I set the resolution to improve them if I could.

I first had a few bushels of seed culled from the bulk, of uniform appearance, and of the description supposed best. This was done for two years. I have since found that this method can be practised with advantages but only under circumstances hereafter to be named.

I next sent three men ahead of the other hands, assigning four rows to each, with orders to pick the best bolls from the best stalks only. I was so much pleased with the result, that I practised this method for five years, under the impression that it was the best that could be devised, but it was not.

The summer and fall of 1843 I spent on my cane-hills plantation, seven miles from Vicksburg. While superintending personally, as I had previously done, the three men mentioned, I picked a few of the largest and most beautiful bolls from the extra fine stalks, which I kept apart in my pockets, hat, handkerchief, bosom, and in every way I could, and prepared up under notes and memorandums, for future examination. To this method I am indebted for any thing I know respecting cotton not known to every one.

Of 1st Method: Little is accomplished by picking a large, or even considerable quantity of seed from a large bulk. For an amount of experience and judgment is required to do this with discrimination, that will never be possessed by any negro, rarely by an overseer, and but seldom by any planter. But the seed from a single stalk may safely be trusted to a negro, or overseer, by whom the seed if any, may be separated, papered apart, and tied up with those proper to the stalk. This however, with the best stalk, should, whenever convenient, be attended to by the planter himself, as well for study, as satisfaction and profit.

Of 2d Method: For a field of 50 hands, 400 to 500 pounds of cotton should annually be culled. If this were done, the size and opening of boll, size, health and production of stalks, picking, quantity and quality of lint, would all be advanced.

Of 3d Method: In favor of this method, on which the gardener, orchardist, &c., mainly depend, which is as old as the practice, and older than the science of agriculture, too much cannot be said.

In examining the products of the different stalks, which amounted to hundreds of bundles, and was the labor of a winter I spread the bundles out on the table before me—satisfied that the fingers would bring to light much valuable, perhaps essential information, that would be hidden by the gin, I determined to make the investigation thorough and complete. It was not long before I plainly saw that what I had supposed to be a homogeneous stock of cotton seed, consisted in fact of ten or a dozen distinct varieties. I became attentive to the shades of difference. Of these ten or a dozen, six were evidently greatly superior to the rest; my selections were confined to those. Of the six, one consisted of 12 locks only. The size and beauty of the locks, style in which they were put up, the abundance, length, fineness and lustre of lint, form and hue of seed, led me to pronounce them at once a new, distinct, and valuable variety. I picked them. They yielded precisely 100 seed. Having many names to furnish, the singularity of the incident suggested a name that would sufficiently distinguish them, and at the same time, with me, perpetuate their history. I called them my "100 seed" cotton.

I planted these 100 seed in 1844. Owning to accident, but 32 were saved—the equivalent of a boll. I picked the cotton

with great care, remarking, (doubtless for want of experience,) but little difference in stalks, or the cotton they bore. With the seed they yielded, dropped singly, I planted two and a half acres of ground. A heavy rain washed up many of them; yet I gathered over two bales of cotton, which sold 24 cents higher than any of my other cotton, and obtained 91 bushels of seed, weighing 24 pounds to the bushel.

Does not that seemingly simple, but profound and admirable advice of Fontenell's, "that we should in all things imitate nature, who is grand in her schemes, but frugal in her means," here apply?

I had committed the blunder while examining my numerous cullings of 1843, of picking with my own fingers all the finer lots, the aggregate yield of which exceeded one hundred thousand seed. The expansion in a single season of my 32 seed, (or one boll) into 24 acres of good cotton, yielding 91 bushels of seed, made me sensible of my error, and of the fact that I must do less to accomplish more. Feeling that I could safely depend for the improvement of my "100 seed," upon the process that resulted in their production, I examined the 24 acres with additional care, and made my selections with fastidious nicety.

Judge of my surprise at finding my 100 seed springing upon me four new varieties the first year, each possessing some peculiar excellence of its own. Three of these were to be met with frequently, but the fourth originated with a single boll, the only one of its kind on the stalk that bore it. The three first were named Sub-Nigri, Belle-Creole, Diamond, and the fourth Lintonia. It may not be amiss to give some account of each. The description will necessarily be imperfect.

**Sub-Nigri Variety.**—Seed small, rugged dark, scorched, seemingly defective, but a perfect and valuable variety. Stalk not large, rather low and bushy, a great bearer, boll of full size, round, lint abundant, of medium 100 seed length, bright and icy, very heavy, elastic and strong.

**Belle-Creole Variety.**—Stalk large, tall and productive, boll large and long, seed above medium "100 seed" size; commonly flat on one side with indentation; lint abundant, long, fine, silky, soft, lustrous, and beyond measure more oily than any cotton I have seen.

**Diamond Variety.**—Of two kinds.—Seed of the one small, flat on one side or both, with indentation on one side, boll round and of full size. The seed of the other large, rough and greenish, long-round, and of sugar-loaf form; (my favorite form) stalk tall and productive, boll of fine size, long and sharp-pointed, locks large and beautiful, and picks splendidly. Lint of both kinds abundant, long, hard, elastic, smooth, heavy, and light-reflecting—whence the name.

**Lintonia Variety.**—The 29 seed in the boll from whence this variety sprung, were a size above Mastodon, of a rich cream color, and very thick, smooth, soft coat, with little, scarcely half the proper quantity of lint, which was however near an inch and a half in length, fine, smooth, hard, bright and beautiful. From 29 seed I saved 18 stalks. They resembled the Mastodon in size and luxuriance of growth, in leaf and limb, but the boll and lock were widely different. The boll had the size of the mastodon, but a broader base, and much thinner hull, and opened quicker than any cotton on the place. A few of the stalks, four or five, had smaller seed than the others, all were smaller than the 29 planted, say somewhat above the average size of the "100 seed," an abundance of very long, fine, soft and glossy lint, and were of my favorite sugar-loaf form, and opened and picked as the others did, most delightfully. The lint of the other stalks was long, hard, strong, abundant, not harsh, like the Mastodon, but not so fine as the "100 seed" commonly.

I will mention a singular incident attending an experiment made in '44, which throws some little light upon this freak of the Lintonia: The first stalk of twin, cluster or okra cotton, as this cotton is variously termed, appeared among my cottons of the second method in 1843. I planted 100 seed from some of the best bolls the ensuing year. But 42 stood. Of these 7 were twin, and like the parent stalk, 2 were the upper part twin and lower part common, and 23 resumed the character and appearance of the cotton in the field. Does not this incident go to show that the tendency in cotton is as strong to recede as to advance—to deteriorate as to improve? And that all the vigilance that can be exercised, is required to make any new and valuable variety that makes its appearance.

I would not be understood as intimating that either of the two kinds furnished by the 18 Lintonia stalks was imperfect; very far from it. The lock, seed and lint of the four or five stalks described were as fine a sample of the original as I could wish.—The Lintonia certainly has as much right to branch out—to give proofs of its paternity, as any other cotton, as were my "100 seed" of the second year, which I very much doubt, however, its ability to do.

My "100 seed" of the second year, on the

24 acres, in proof of its paternity and nativity to my fields, exhibited with the utmost distinctness, the six best varieties of 1843, with this remarkable feature attendant, that each variety, in its way, was as superior to its prototype in the field as the other was.

Led by the dilation of one boll, or 32 seed, into 91 bushels in a single year, to calculate the facility\* with which a small quantity of superior seed can be made to supply a plantation, it followed that I should think of the influence which any note of things beneficial to myself might be made to have upon the condition of others. Settling it in my own mind that no improvement made in the quality of cotton could be estimated lower than one-fourth of a cent per pound, I saw that the gain to myself was very considerable.

\* \* My last remarks might lead you to suppose that I am especially regardful of the quality of cotton. But in truth my attention is equally given to production, early opening, picking properties, size and form of stalk, boll and seed, and abundance, length, strength, fineness and gloss of lint. Upon discovery of my "100 seed" variety, I determined to compare it with other cottons. I procured and planted in 1845, the 2d year of the "100 seed," some Mastodon, Weems's Guatemala, Haller Nutt's, and Lane's Yucatan, and last year some Silk and Sugar-loaf. Not having "100-seed" enough to plant more than two-thirds of my crop the present year, I shall fill out with Sugar-loaf, Lewis's Prolific, and Haller Nutt's seed. Of the Mastodon, I have seen as much as I wish to see, although I am of the opinion as it opens late, remains well in the boll, and protects its valuable lint with its thick hard hull better than any other cotton, that as one-eighth of the crop it would pay very well. Proposing to be on my plantation from the opening of cotton till frost, I must defer till then certain notions that I have that require to be verified. In fact, I am at the threshold only of my studies, if many of the fancies that have struck me prove to be correct. Not until the different varieties of my "100 seed" have been planted for two years, and the few of each I now have are spread over fifty acres, and the cotton picked, ginned, compared in every way, and then forwarded to the factories and pronounced on, can I feel assured that I know what I am about.

No greater mistake could be made than to suppose that such investigations as these interfere with the operations of the field, or a planter's energetic attention to his business. They certainly incite me most powerfully, and stimulate me to realize, if I can, the speculations, and accomplish the calculations I make.

These notes, such as they are, are very much at your service. I am later with them than I intended. Had you not committed me in the Sentinel, I very much question whether you would have received them as soon, for I have been considerably indisposed, and very much engaged since reaching my plantation, and now send them without correction. You will receive herewith a small quantity of each of the varieties of the "100 seed." Many points, as I have intimated above, are intentionally left untouched. On these we will talk this fall. I have in the last two years compared my "100 seed" with seven kinds of cotton. As I would my standard and test cotton. As I would like to make trial of all the good kinds to be had, I wish the planters would select some house in Vicksburg or Jackson to which some of any superior variety they have should be sent. Messrs. Bruner, Morgan & Markham, of Vicksburg, usually have on hand a larger assortment of fine cotton seed than any house I know of, and would manage a matter of this sort very well. To start the thing, I will send to them this fall or winter, a few of all the varieties of my "100 seed," and of any other cottons I may consider valuable, that are at my command.

Respectfully and truly, yours,

H. W. VICK.

\* A single stalk or seed of cotton can be made in ten years to produce every crop.

The President will extend his Northern tour to New York, Hartford, Boston, Lowell, &c. He has been invited by the legislatures of Maine and New Hampshire to extend his visit to the seats of government of those States, and if time allow, he will do so. Mrs. Polk left him at Baltimore to visit her home in Tennessee.

God has made no one absolute. The rich depend on the poor as well as on the rich. The world is a magnificent building; all the stone gradually cemented together. There is no one subsists by himself alone.

There is a volume contained in a few words of Shakespeare, when he says—"Drunkness is an egg from which all vice may be hatched."

If you would get along in the world, you must hold up your head, even if you know that there is not much in it—the less the higher.